(c) The sound meters have been purchased to check noise pollution in National Capital Territory of Delhi which were distributed to the concerned Police Officers. Violators against the pressure horns, playing of music in vehicles etc. are prosecuted by Delhi Police. The details of the violation and challans are given below:

| Number of cases | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 (upto 1 | 5.11.2003) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pressure Horn | 191546 | 187723 | | 138759 |
| Honking Horn | — | 30108 | | 10033 |
| Playing Music | 4852 | 7125 | | 10967 |
| TOTAL : | 196398 | 224956 | | 159759 |

**Setting up of a National Ecology Body**

392. SHRI P.PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to sated:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up a National Ecological Body with six regional authorities to assist the National Body;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the functions and duties proposed to be assigned to them; and

(c) by when, these bodies are likely to be set up and start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Forest cover in Assam**

393. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest cover maintained in Assam during each of last ten years;

(b) the action taken to prevent future depletion of natural habitat of wild lives;

(c) the list of schemes and programmes being implemented through NGOs; and

(d) the location-wise list of NGOs and eco clubs in Assam granted assistance for Environment Education and under UNDP-GEF/CCF small grant programme indicating criteria of selection and grams released during the last three years to each organization?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The assessment of forest cover by Forest Survey of India is done on biennial basis. The total forest cover in Assam during the last ten years on two year cycle as per assessments made by the Forest Survey of India is as follows:

| Year of Assessment | Area in Sq. kms. |
|---|---|
| 1991 | 24,751 |
| 1993 | 24,508 |
| 1995 | 24,061 |
| 1997 | 23,824 |
| 1999 | 23,688 |
| 2001 | 27,714 |

(b) Government provides technical and financial assistance to the Government of Assam for development and protection of natural habitat of wildlife in the notified Protected Areas. Funds amounting to Rs. 70.55 lakhs, Rs. 162.135 lakhs, Rs. 93.68 lakhs have been provided to the State of Assam during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till November 2003) respectively.

(c) The schemes and programmes being implemented through NGOs are:

1. Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Agencies Scheme.
2. UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme.
3. National Environmental Awareness Campaign.

(d) District-wise list of Eco-clubs granted assistance is at Statement-I (See below). An amount of Rs. 33.83 lakhs has been released during the last three years to Assam Science, Technology and Environment Council for running the Eco-clubs. The location-wise list of NGOs who are implementing various projects in Assam under UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme alongwith the grants released is at

Statement-II. *(See* below). The project provides grants to organizations for activities that address local problems and activities that offer local solutions to global problems in the areas of bio-diversity conservation, International waters and climate change. As regards the criteria for selection, these NGOs are selected on the'basis of the project proposals which are submitted to the National Host Institution appointed for the project. Subsequently, these proposals are short-listed by a National Standing Committee for consideration by the National Steering Committee.

***Statement-I*** *Districts-wise list of eco-clubs granted assistance in Assam*

| Sl. No. | Districts | Nos. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Goalpara | 100 |
| 2. | Dhubri | 100 |
| 3. | Kokrajhar | 100 |
| 4. | Bongaigaon | 100 |
| 5. | Dhemaji | 100 |
| 6. | Lakhimpur | 100 |
| 7. | Sonitpur | .100 |
| 8. | Darrang | 100 |
| 9. | Kamrup | 100 |
| 10. | Nalbari | 100 |
| 11. | Barpeta | 100 |
| 12. | Cachar | 100 |
| 13. | Hailakandi | 100 |
| 14. | Karimganj | 100 |
| 15. | Golaghat | 100 |
| 16. | Nagaon | 100 |
| 17. | Morlgaon | List yet to be received |
| 18. | North Cachar Hills | 100 |
| 19. | Karbi Anglong | 50 |
| 20. | Tinsukia | 100 |
| 21. | Dibrugarh | 100 |
| 22. | Sibsagar | 100 |
| 23. | Jorhat | 100 |

***Statement-II***

*Location-wise list of NGOs granted assistance in Assam under UNDP-GEF/CCF Small Grants Programme*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the NGOs | Amount Sanctioned | Released Amount 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | Physical Progress |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Nabjagran Sanstha, Barpeta | 3.30 | 1.32 | 1.32 | Project on going |
| 2. | Assam Science Society, Latasil | 5.01 | 2.00 | 2.00 | Project on going |
| 3. | Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha, Dighalipukhri. | 3.58 | 1.43 | 1.43 | Project on going |
| 4. | Centre for All Round Development, Darrang | 4.00 | 1.60 | 1.60 | Project on going |
| 5. | Nature's Beckon, Dubhuri | 4.20 | — | 1.68 | Project on going |
| | TOTAL | 20.08 | 6.35 | 8.03 | |

**Violation of Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1995**

394. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi's Department of Forests and Wildlife Kas sanctioned permission for felling or pruning of 45,219 tress over the past five years and the saplings supposed to be planted *in lieu* of each tree cut have either died without a trace or are yet to grow into full fledged greenery;

(b) if so, who is responsible for violation of provision of Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1995, stipulating 10 saplings to be planted *in lieu* of each tree cut or pruned; and

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for this lapse?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of N.C.T of Delhi has granted permission for felling of 41,925 trees over